Acute Postobstructive Pulmonary Edema Following Laryngospasm in Elderly Patients: A Case Report
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Abstract

Only a few cases regarding postobstructive pulmonary edema following laryngospasm in older patients aged more than 60 years have been reported; however, acute pulmonary edema or pulmonary hemorrhage would be more deadly to elderly patients who have cerebrovascular disease than young healthy adults. After review of the literature, we report an unusual case of a 67-year-old man with ischemic cerebrovascular disease, who underwent carotid angioplasty and stenting and experienced severe pulmonary edema and hemorrhage secondary to laryngospasm after general anesthesia with laryngeal mask airway. The patient required positive-pressure ventilation, supportive treatment, and active cerebroprotection in the intensive care setting for 3 days before the edema resolved, and subsequently made a complete recovery without new onset of neurologic sequelae. The possible pathophysiological mechanisms, precaution, and preventative strategy of postobstructive pulmonary edema in older patients are discussed.